

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice to the filing of a continuation application on the same.

Claims 1-30 were in the application as filed. Claims 31-45 were added in the Preliminary Amendment dated December 19, 2000. Claims 4-27, 31-40, and 43-45 were cancelled in the Response and Amendment filed on August 28, 2003. Claims 3 and 42 were cancelled by the foregoing amendment. Claims 1-2, 28-30 and 41 remain in the application.

Claim 3 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 2. In support of this objection the Examiner has stated that:

When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP §706.03(k).

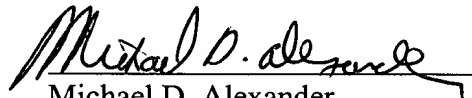
This objection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn in view of the cancellation of claim 3.

Claim 42 is objected to for being dependent on claim 3. This objection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn in view of the cancellation of claims 3 and 42.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 3 and 42 is requested and allowance of claims 1-2, 28-30 and 41 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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